

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07921 210302Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 /150 W
-----070033 211618Z /43

R 191231Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1697
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCOHSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, IN, US
SUBJECT: ONCE MORE ON NANDA DEVI DEVICE

REF: A. NEW DEHI 7568, B. NEW DELHI 7842 (NOTAL)

1. CPI MP BHUPESH GUPTA RAISED A "SPECIAL MENTION"
IN THE RJYA SABHA ON THE NANDA DEVI NUCLEAR DEVICE
ON MAY 18, CHARGING PRIME MINISTER DESAI WITH TRYING
TO SHIELD THE CIA AND "DELIBERATELY MISLEADING"
PARLIAMENT REGARDING THE DANGERS WHICH THE DEVICE
POSES. GUPTA CLAIMED THAT THE PM "FULLY KNEW" ABOUT
THE PLANTING OF THE SECOND DEVICE IN 1967 SINCE HE
WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME. REFERRING TO
LOCAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY
REPS. OTTINGER, DINGELL AND MAGUIRE (REFTEL B),
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GUPTA TOOK ISSUE WITH DESAI'S ASSURANCES THAT THE
DEVICE POSED NO DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT. HE SAID
THAT EVEN U.S. CONGRESSMEN WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE
POTENTIAL HAZARDS. THE CPI MEMBER ALSO ASKED THE

GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF ALL INDIAN

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS AND CIA AGENTS INVOLVED IN
THE NANDA DEVI EPISODE.

2. "SPECIAL MENTION" IS A DEVICE ENABLING MP'S TO
BRING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION CERTAIN ISSUES.
IT IS NEITHER OBLIGATORY NOR STANDARD PRACTICE FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO REPLY. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS THE
GOVERNMENT DID NOT RESPOND TO GUPTA'S STATEMENT. EX-
CEPT FOR THE PRO-CPI "PATRIOT," TODAY'S DELHI PAPERS
CARRY ONLY BRIEF INSIDE-PAGE REPORTS OF GUPTA'S STATE-
MENT.

3. COMMENT: THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST WE WILL HEAR ON
NANDA DEVI IN PARLIAMENT FOR SOME TIME. THE RAJYA
SABHA ADJOURNED ON MAY 18 AND THE LOK SABHA HAD ADJOURNED
EARIER THIS WEEK. WITH THE RESTORATION OF AN
OPEN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, THESE TWO HOUSES HAVE PROVIDED
A PUBLIC FORUM FOR THE FREQUENT AIRING OF EMBARRASSING
QUESTIONS BY THE OPPOSITION AND POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING
RESPONSES BY THE GOVERNMENT. UNTIL PARLIAMENT RECONVENES
FOR THE MONSOON SESSION SOMETIME IN JULY, MOST MP'S
AND MANY MINSTERS WIL BE OUT OF DELHI.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MONITORING, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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TAGS: PINR, IN, US, CIA, (DESAI, MORARJI)
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